



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Fire Prevention Week Reminds Kentuckians to 'Have 2 Ways Out' *Escape plan prepares families to think fast, get out quickly***

**Frankfort, Ky.** (Oct. 5, 2012) – Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed Oct. 7-13 as Fire Prevention Week in Kentucky. The National Fire Protection Association sponsors fire prevention week annually and this year the theme is “have 2 ways out.”

“Kentucky families should take time together to map out a plan for escaping a home fire,” said William Swope, state fire marshal and director of the Division of Fire Prevention. “But don’t stop there. After you have mapped out two emergency exits, practice the plan with your family. This is the ultimate ‘great escape.’”

Here is how to get started:

1. Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
2. Visit each room. Find two ways out.
3. All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
4. Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
5. Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
6. Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
7. Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
8. Practice, practice and practice your home escape plan.

Swope also emphasizes the importance of working smoke detectors in your home or apartment. “Smoke detectors – hard wired ones with a battery backup – should be installed on every floor of your home, including the basement, and in each sleeping area. It’s best to have “dual technology” detectors, ones that can detect both fast flaming and smoldering fires. Not all fires are the same. On a regular basis, check your smoke detectors to make sure they are working.”

The best way to practice fire safety is to make sure a fire doesn’t break out in the first place.

Swope says to be aware of potential hazards in your home. “Look around your house for potential problems. For instance, are your electrical appliances in good condition? Are your outlets overloaded with too many items plugged in? Do you use too many extension cords? These are all things that can be fixed easily.”

For additional information on fire safety and fire prevention week, visit NFPA’s website at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

In addition to Kentucky’s upcoming Fire Prevention Week, Division of Forestry officials remind citizens that Fall Fire Hazard Season is in effect from Oct. 1 through Dec. 15. During this time, outdoor burning is illegal between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. in or within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland.

“The safety of families living in or adjacent to natural areas is especially important during fire seasons, said Leah MacSwords, director of the Division of Forestry. “The best way to protect lives and property is to prevent wildfires from getting started in the first place. Homeowners who live in or near forested areas should prune and remove flammable plant and debris. Reducing the amount of fuel from shrubs, dead plant material and firewood will help create a defensible space around your home.”

For more information about firewise practices, visit the forestry website at <http://forestry.ky.gov/wildlandfiremanagement/Pages/KentuckyFirewiseProgram.aspx>

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